MEMO TO: City Council

FROM: Rosemarie Ives, Mayor

DATE: September 5, 2006

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION: Support of King County Proposition No. 1 Authorizing a Regular Property Tax Levy for Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Services

I.   RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve a Resolution supporting King County Proposition No. 1 authorizing a regular property tax levy for Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) services at the primary election to be held on September 19, 2006.

II.   DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON

Terry Morgan, Police Commander – 556-2523

III.   DESCRIPTION

On September 19, 2006, voters will be asked to approve a regular property tax levy for AFIS services for a six-year period, at a rate of not more than $0.0533 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation with a limit factor of 103% for each of the five succeeding years. Collections of the property tax will begin in 2007. The AFIS levy is intended as supplemental funding to provide crime scene identification, positive identification, and criminal history services on a regional basis.

"AFIS Program" means the acquisition, implementation, maintenance, and operation of AFIS. In addition, it means the county-wide effort of trained law enforcement and jail personnel who, through fingerprint identification services, identify detained persons, identify, from crime scene fingerprints, suspects of crimes, assist in the conviction of criminals through identifying their crime scene fingerprints, support accurate and complete criminal history records, and otherwise enhance public safety as permitted by law.

IV. IMPACT

A. The proposed levy rate is set at a level to fund the AFIS Program in a manner that best supports the crime-fighting efforts of all police agencies in King County. With the level of funding recommended in the 2006 AFIS levy, AFIS Program activities can continue at current levels with the following enhancements:

1. Procure, configure, and support a new generation computer system, replacing the existing AFIS computer; which was installed in 1988 and upgraded for year 2000 compliance in 1999;
2. Upgrade the current live scan capture stations to capture data at a higher resolution;
3. Add five additional criminal live scan capture stations, supplementing the existing inventory to address remaining service gaps in the region;
4. Implement palm searching and storage capabilities, converting current master palm card inventory to an electronic database, and adding three positions to search, capture, and identify palm prints left at crime scenes;
5. Increase staffing in conjunction with increases in workload ensuring that staffing levels will be reevaluated annually in the budget cycle based on available funding;
6. Implement a "court identification study" to consider the legal, financial, and operational policies and needs of the court system to identify and collect fingerprints from defendants;
7. Provide the technology to ensure that King County law enforcement agencies implementing wireless mobile identification can access and communicate with the regional identification system;
8. Add two photographers to process and photographically preserve finger and palm print evidence recovered from crime scenes;
9. Implement a three-unit court identification pilot program based on the outcome of the court identification feasibility study; and
10. Implement a ten-unit mobile identification pilot project in order to ensure that law enforcement agencies utilizing different wireless vendor products can communicate with regional identification databases.

B. The current levy which expired December 31, 2005, was at $0.05874 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation. Through prudent fiscal management, the county accumulated a substantial balance in the AFIS fund over the past decade. This balance sustained appropriations in 2006 to continue AFIS Program operations without a concurrent property tax levy. This required AFIS management to carefully manage and monitor AFIS fund expenditures in 2006 in order to fund 2006 expenditures without any new levy revenue. The fund balance will approach exhaustion by the end of 2006. Unless new revenue is identified, this valuable crime-fighting tool will need to cease operation in 2007.

V.   ALTERNATIVES

Decline to take a position on the ballot measure.

VI.   TIME CONSTRAINTS

Council action should occur in advance of the September 19, 2006 primary election.

VII.   LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Resolution Supporting King County Proposition No. 1

/s/ Larry Gainer for Steven R. Harris, Chief of Police   Date: 08/29/2006

Approved for Council Agenda
/s/ Jane Christenson for Rosemarie Ives, Mayor   Date:08/30/2006

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDMOND, WASHINGTON, TAKING A POSITION IN SUPPORT OF KING COUNTY PROPOSITION NO. 1 AUTHORIZING A REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR AUTOMATED FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AFIS) SERVICES.

WHEREAS, the King County Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) has been in existence, serving all of King County criminal justice, since 1998, and

WHEREAS, public safety in King County has been vastly improved by King County AFIS through creation of an electronic database that stores fingerprints of all persons booked in a detention facility within King County, and

WHEREAS, the King County AFIS database is connected to other AFIS databases and fingerprints in the King County database are automatically compared to fingerprints collected by Police Officers at crime scenes, and

WHEREAS, comparison of these fingerprints has solved over 17,000 criminal cases that otherwise would not have been solved, and

WHEREAS, some of these crimes involve major felonies such as murder, attempted murder, felony assault, sexual assault and robbery, and

WHEREAS, innocent persons suspected or accused of crimes have been cleared through use of AFIS, and

WHEREAS, prior to AFIS only one percent of inmates giving false names at the time of booking in King County were correctly identified prior to release from custody, and

WHEREAS, with the assistance of AFIS ninety-six percent of inmates giving false names at the time of booking are now correctly identified prior to release, and

WHEREAS, the regional AFIS model has provided excellent and effective crime solving support to the criminal justice agencies in King County since inception in 1988, and

WHEREAS, King County AFIS is in need of increased staff and technology upgrades, and

WHEREAS, King County AFIS is funded solely through voter approved levy's authorized by the King County Council and funding must be renewed through approval of a levy every five years, and

WHEREAS, the loss of King County AFIS would severely degrade law enforcement effectiveness in King County, including the City of Redmond; now therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDMOND, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES that the City Council of the City of Redmond take an official position in support of the continued funding of the King County AFIS program and urge the community to vote in favor of King County Proposition No. 1 authorizing a regular property tax levy for Automated Fingerprint Identification System services at a primary election to be held on September 19, 2006.

RESOLVED this 5th day of September 2006.

CITY OF REDMOND

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MAYOR, ROSEMARIE IVES

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

_____
MALISA FILES, CITY CLERK

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: August 30, 2006
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:
RESOLUTION NO.: